

*Washington, DC* - In recognition and support of National Women's Health Week, which celebrates the efforts of national and community organizations working to improve awareness of key women's health issues, the House today unanimously approved a resolution authored by Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY).

"National Women's Health Week is about empowering women to take control of their health," Hinchey said. "All too often, women in America let their own health fall by the wayside as they look after and care for others. This resolution recognizes the need for our mothers and sisters to make regular check-ups and preventative screenings a priority so that they can live long and healthy lives."

National Women's Health Week begins on Mother's Day annually. The weeklong health observance is coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Women's Health. The nationwide initiative encourages women to take simple steps to ensure a longer and healthier life, including getting proper exercise, eating a nutritious diet, scheduling regular check-ups and screenings, avoiding risky behaviors like smoking, and improving mental health by getting enough sleep and managing stress.

This is the fourth time that Hinchey has introduced a resolution recognizing National Women's Health Week. This year's resolution was co-sponsored by 56 members of Congress. The Senate is expected to introduce and pass a similar resolution sponsored by U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) later this week.

The National Council of Women's Organizations fully endorses the resolution on behalf of its over 200 member organizations representing 11 million women nationwide.

Hinchey also strongly supported the health care reform measure, which ends the industry practice of "gender-rating" that requires women to pay more than men for the same coverage. The measure also ends discrimination based on a past pregnancy, C-section or domestic violence incidents.